

**Amendments to the Claims (As Amended to Incorporate the Article 34 Amendments):**

Please substitute pages 14-16 as originally filed with the attached amended pages 14-16.

These new pages incorporate revisions to the international PCT application which were modified under Article 34. Then,

Before claim 1 on amended page 14 insert --We claim:--

*This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:*

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) Soil compacting device, ~~having comprising:~~
  - a common upper mass (1) having a drive~~;~~ and ~~having~~
  - at least two lower masses (2) that are coupled to the upper mass (1) and that are capable of oscillatory movement relative to the upper mass (1),  
each lower mass having:
    - \_\_\_\_\_ - a soil contact plate (6) and
    - \_\_\_\_\_ - at least one vibration exciter (7) that is allocated to the soil contact plate (6) and  
that is driven by the drive;

**characterized in that**  
~~the vibration exciters (7) are capable of being driven by the drive provided on the upper mass (1).~~
2. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ soil compacting device as recited in Claim 1,  
**characterized in that** ~~wherein~~ the vibration exciters (7) have two or more imbalance

shafts (8), each bearing one or more imbalance masses, that are situated parallel to one another or at an angle to one another, and are capable of rotation in opposite directions to one another.

3. (Currently Amended) SA soil compacting device as recited in Claim 1 ~~or 2~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein at least one of the vibration exciters (7) has a phase adjustment device for adjusting the relative phase position of the imbalance shafts (8) to one another.

4. (Currently Amended) Soil compacting device as recited in ~~one of Claim[s] 1 to 3~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein exactly one vibration exciter (7) is situated on each soil contact plate (6).

5. (Currently Amended) SA soil compacting device as recited in ~~one of Claim[s] 1 to 4~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a resultant propulsive force in a direction of propulsion can be produced at least by one of the vibration exciters (7).

6. (Currently Amended) SA soil compacting device as recited in ~~one of Claim[s] 1 to 5~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein at least one of the vibration exciters (7) is situated in such a way that the horizontal component of the resultant force vector resulting from the imbalance shafts (8) rotating in opposite directions to one another is oriented in or opposite to a main direction (A).

7. (Currently Amended) SA soil compacting device as recited in ~~one of Claim[s] 1 to 6~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein at least one of the vibration exciters (7) is situated in such a way that the horizontal component of the resultant force vector that results from the imbalance shafts (8) rotating in opposite directions is not oriented in or opposite to a main direction (A).

8. (Currently Amended) SA soil compacting device as recited in ~~one of Claim[s] 1 to 5, or as recited in Claim 7 in connection with one of Claims 1 to 5,~~ **characterized in that** wherein none of the vibration exciters (7) is situated in such a way that the horizontal component of the resultant force vector that results from the imbalance shafts (8) rotating in opposite directions is oriented in or opposite to a main direction (A).

9. (Currently Amended) SA soil compacting device as recited in ~~one of Claim[s] 1 to 8,~~ **characterized in that** wherein at least one of the vibration exciters (7) is situated in such a way that the horizontal component of the resulting force vector that results from the imbalance shafts (8) rotating in opposite directions is oriented at a particular angle to a main direction (A).

10. (Currently Amended) SA soil compacting device as recited in Claim 9, **characterized in that** wherein the angle is 60° or 90°.

11. (Currently Amended) SA soil compacting device as recited in ~~one of Claim[s] 1 to 10,~~ **characterized in that** wherein the upper mass (1) has a central control unit for controlling the vibration exciters (7).

12. (Currently Amended) SA soil compacting device as recited in Claim 11, **characterized in that** wherein the vibration exciters (7) are capable of being controlled individually by the control unit.

13. (Currently Amended) SA soil compacting device as recited in Claim 11 ~~or 12,~~ **characterized in that** wherein the control unit is fashioned for the setting of different rotational speeds of the imbalance shafts (8) in different vibration exciters (7).

14. (Currently Amended) SA soil compacting device as recited in ~~one of Claim[s]~~ 11 to 13, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the control unit is fashioned for the individual controlling of the phase adjustment devices provided on the individual vibration exciters (7).

15. (Currently Amended) SA soil compacting device as recited in ~~one of Claim[s]~~ 1 to 14, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a part of the lower masses (2) each has a vibration exciter (7) having a phase adjustment device, while at least one other lower mass (2) has only a vibration exciter (7) that does not have a phase adjustment device.

16. (Currently Amended) SA soil compacting device as recited in ~~one of Claim[s]~~ 1 to 15, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the soil compacting device can be guided by hand and/or has a remote control device.

17. (Currently Amended) SA soil compacting device as recited in ~~one of Claim[s]~~ 1 to 16, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the soil contact plates (6) of the imbalance masses (22) are situated so as to be offset to one another in such a way that the tracks that can be produced on the soil that is to be compacted during movement of the soil compacting device in at least one main direction of travel overlap at least partially.